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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. 2:20-CR-220-MCE

12 Plaintiff,

STIPULATION REGARDING EXCLUDABLE  
TIME PERIODS UNDER SPEEDY TRIAL ACT;  
ORDER

13 v.  
14 JORGE MENDOZA-RABAGO,

DATE: February 11, 2021

15 Defendant.

TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
COURT: Hon. Morrison C. England, Jr.

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17 This case was set for a status conference on February 11, 2021. By this stipulation, the parties  
18 request that the Court continue the status conference to April 15, 2021, and to exclude time under Local  
19 Code T4 as well under the Court's General Orders, for the reasons set forth below.

20 On April 17, 2020, this Court issued General Order 617, which suspends all jury trials in the  
21 Eastern District of California scheduled to commence before June 15, 2020, and allows district judges to  
22 continue all criminal matters to a date after June 1. This and previous General Orders were entered to  
23 address public health concerns related to COVID-19.

24 Although the General Orders address the district-wide health concern, the Supreme Court has  
25 emphasized that the Speedy Trial Act's end-of-justice provision "counteract[s] substantive  
26 openendedness with procedural strictness," "demand[ing] on-the-record findings" in a particular case.  
27 *Zedner v. United States*, 547 U.S. 489, 509 (2006). "[W]ithout on-the-record findings, there can be no  
28 exclusion under" § 3161(h)(7)(A). *Id.* at 507. Moreover, any such failure cannot be harmless. *Id.* at

1 509; *see also United States v. Ramirez-Cortez*, 213 F.3d 1149, 1153 (9th Cir. 2000) (explaining that a  
 2 judge ordering an ends-of-justice continuance must set forth explicit findings on the record “either orally  
 3 or in writing”).

4 Based on the plain text of the Speedy Trial Act—which *Zedner* emphasizes as both mandatory  
 5 and inexcusable—General Orders 611, 612, and 617 require specific supplementation. Ends-of-justice  
 6 continuances are excludable only if “the judge granted such continuance on the basis of his findings that  
 7 the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the  
 8 defendant in a speedy trial.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Moreover, no such period is excludable unless  
 9 “the court sets forth, in the record of the case, either orally or in writing, its reason or finding that the  
 10 ends of justice served by the granting of such continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and  
 11 the defendant in a speedy trial.” *Id.*

12 The General Orders exclude delay in the “ends of justice.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7) (Local Code  
 13 T4). Although the Speedy Trial Act does not directly address continuances stemming from pandemics,  
 14 natural disasters, or other emergencies, this Court has discretion to order a continuance in such  
 15 circumstances. For example, the Ninth Circuit affirmed a two-week ends-of-justice continuance  
 16 following Mt. St. Helens’ eruption. *Furlow v. United States*, 644 F.2d 764 (9th Cir. 1981). The court  
 17 recognized that the eruption made it impossible for the trial to proceed. *Id.* at 767-68; *see also United*  
 18 *States v. Correa*, 182 F. Supp. 326, 329 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (citing *Furlow* to exclude time following the  
 19 September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the resultant public emergency). The coronavirus is posing a  
 20 similar, albeit more enduring, barrier to the prompt proceedings mandated by the statutory rules.

21 The government requests that, in light of the societal context created by the foregoing, this Court  
 22 should consider the following case-specific facts in finding excludable delay appropriate in this  
 23 particular case under the ends-of-justice exception, § 3161(h)(7) (Local Code T4).<sup>1</sup> If continued, this  
 24 Court should designate a new date for the status conference. *United States v. Lewis*, 611 F.3d 1172,  
 25 1176 (9th Cir. 2010) (noting any pretrial continuance must be “specifically limited in time”).

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28 <sup>1</sup> The parties note that General Order 612 acknowledges that a district judge may make  
 “additional findings to support the exclusion” at the judge’s discretion. General Order 612, ¶ 5 (E.D.  
 Cal. March 18, 2020).

## STIPULATION

Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendant, by and through his counsel of record, hereby stipulate as follows:

1. By this stipulation, the defendant now moves to continue the status conference to April 15, 2021, and to exclude time between February 11, 2021, and April 15, 2021, under Local Code T4, in addition to the exclusion of time appropriate in light of public health concerns cited by the Court's General Orders.

2. The parties agree and stipulate, and request that the Court find the following:

a) The government has made an initial production of evidence in this matter, including the arresting officer's report, photographs of the narcotics seized, and DEA laboratory reports. The government anticipates producing further discovery as it becomes available from the law enforcement agencies involved in this case.

b) Defense counsel will need additional time to review any additional discovery to be produced by the government. Defense counsel will also need time to review the current charges, to investigate and conduct research related to the current charges, and to discuss potential resolutions with his client, to prepare pretrial motions, and to otherwise prepare for trial.

c) Counsel for the defendant believes that failure to grant the above-requested continuance would deny him the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence.

d) The government does not object to the continuance.

e) Based on the above-stated findings, the ends of justice served by continuing the case as requested outweigh the interest of the public and the defendant in a trial within the original date prescribed by the Speedy Trial Act.

f) For the purpose of computing time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161, et seq., within which trial must commence, the time period between February 11, 2021, and April 15, 2021, inclusive, is deemed excludable pursuant to the Court's General Orders, and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), B(iv) [Local Code T4] because it results from a continuance

1 granted by the Court at defendant's request on the basis of the Court's finding that the ends of  
2 justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in  
3 a speedy trial.

4 3. Nothing in this stipulation and order shall preclude a finding that other provisions of the  
5 Speedy Trial Act dictate that additional time periods are excludable from the period within which a trial  
6 must commence.

7 IT IS SO STIPULATED.

8 Dated: February 8, 2021

McGREGOR W. SCOTT  
United States Attorney

10 /s/ JAMES R. CONOLLY  
11 JAMES R. CONOLLY  
12 Assistant United States Attorney

13 Dated: February 8, 2021

14 /s/ TIM WARRINER  
15 TIM WARRINER  
16 Counsel for Defendant  
17 JORGE MENDOZA-RABAGO

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 ORDER

Dated: February 10, 2021

20   
21 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.  
22 SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE